



OPINION

Let's Go To The Keystone Cornucopia

Since 1961, the State Council of Farm Organizations has been pairing agricultural and food industry leaders with state and federal legislators and policymakers. And the pairing has occurred over plates laden with fresh Pennsylvania-produced foods.

Where has this tasty meeting occurred? Each year at the Council's Keystone Cornucopia, the premier agricultural and food industry celebration. This year the event is set Monday, February 9.

This provides a united front for the Commonwealth's agricultural industry. The Council accomplishes this by pulling together the tremendous number of organizations and associations serving agriculture in Pennsylvania.

This is the only event of the year where processors and producers join forces to promote and celebrate the bounty of our state's agricultural product.

Also, it is possibly the only event of the year that pulls together the various farm organizations and cooperatives that serve the state's farming community. Events like the Cornucopia show officials in Harrisburg that agriculturists work together for the betterment of our agricultural economy.

Tickets are rather expensive—

\$30.00 each. But there is a coupon on page A-13 that allows you a \$5.00 discount.

What do you get for your \$25.00? First, you are treated to a feed fit for royalty...and Pennsylvania's commodity royalty will be there to help you enjoy yourselves! From the hour-long reception to the laden buffet-table, you may eat your fill of Pennsylvania's bounty.

Second, you have an opportunity to visit with agricultural and elected leaders. From PFA, the Grange, PFU and PAFC representatives, to state House and Senate Ag Committee leadership...from Food Processors Association members to dairy, poultry, beef, pork, mushroom and vegetable groups...you have an opportunity to talk with and share opinions with leaders from your commodity area.

Third, you have the opportunity to hear a few words from the new Agriculture Secretary designee as well as veteran Farm Journal editor emeritus Lane Palmer.

And finally, you can treat yourself to a scrumptious make-your-own sundae bar to top off the evening!

The planners of this event would like more production farmers to attend for the impact it will have on the effort. It should be worth the cost to be there.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent

To Protect Your Lungs

Be it in the coal mines or on the farm... dust can destroy lungs. Farmers who are exposed to dust over long periods of time risk the disabling disease called "farmer's lung." As the dust accumulates in the lungs the tissue hardens. This can lead to a variety of respiratory ailments including bronchitis and asthma. If the condition is not diagnosed soon enough, irreversible lung damage may occur.

Preventing farmers' lung doesn't necessarily require any elaborate or expensive equipment...a simple mask when dust can't be avoided...for example when handling dry bedding, sweeping dusty walls or walks or grinding and mixing feed.

Keeping the overall level of dust down is also helpful; therefore, as soon as feed sacks or chemical containers are emptied, they should be discarded in the proper

manner. Regular housecleaning of work areas is another good idea. Not only will the area look better...you'll feel better without all that dust in your lungs.

To Observe Rabies Vaccination Law

Rabies is spreading across Pennsylvania, threatening the lives of humans and animals. Unvaccinated dogs and cats are a threat to the spread of the disease because of their frequent contact with people and their potential contact with rabid animals. Because of this risk, it has been a good practice to vaccinate dogs and cats for rabies.

As of February 13, 1987 all dogs and cats over 3 months of age must be vaccinated. Violators can be fined up to \$300 per day of violation. Innoculation must be administered or supervised by a licensed veterinarian.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will assist municipality, civic groups and others in establishing vaccination clinics. For more information, write the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408, or call 1-800-PA-PENNA.

To Plan Legume Seeding

It's not too soon to make plans for seeding clover, alfalfa or winter grains. Many of our good stands have been obtained by making a broadcast seeding in late February or early March.

The value of seeding at this time is to take advantage of the alternate freezing and thawing to work the small seeds into the topsoil.

Wheat is usually the best grain to make late winter or early spring legume seedings. Barley and rye tend to develop too much growth and increase the potential for lodging which smothers out the small legume plants.

Broadcast seeding when the soil is "honeycombed" in early March works very well, but the use of a band seeder may be a better way to establish a new legume stand.

To Plan Your Estate

During my lifetime the management of farm labor, livestock, crops and machinery has been very important in order to obtain maximum production. Many farmers have excelled in these areas. Now, as we look into the mid-eighties, I feel that money management is of growing importance to the farmer and warrants much more attention and knowledge. The planning of your estate, including the making and updating of a will and also the proper farm transfer, is very important, especially with recent changes in the tax laws.

Today, the average farmer handles more money in one month than his ancestors did in a year. We urge more attention to estate planning and money management as part of good farm management.

We hope you plan to attend the Estate Planning meeting on Feb. 26 and the Farm Transfer meeting on March 12, both at 7:30 p.m. in the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster. Attorney John Becker, farm law specialist and Jesse Cooper, farm management specialist, at Penn State University will be the speakers.

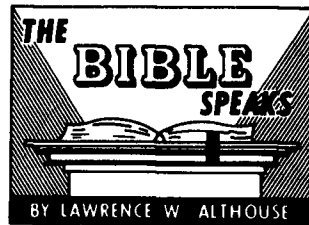
York County 4-H Center.
Maryland Agricultural Dinner, Martin's West, Baltimore.
Mercer County Corn Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mercer Vo-Tech School.

Friday, February 6
Lancaster County Pork Producer's Banquet, Blue Ball Firehall, 6:30 p.m.
Second Annual Cordova VFD Farm Toy Show and Auction, Cordova Firehouse, Cordova, Md. Times — Friday, 6 to 10 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (auction to follow at 6 p.m.). For more information call 301-364-5490.

Monday, February 9
Sixth Pennsylvania Cornucopia Banquet, Hershey Convention Center.
Luzerne County Corn Clinic, Luzerne Extension Office, Wilkes-Barre, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 10
Capital Region Turf and Ornamental School, Holiday Inn, Grantville.
Atlantic Breeder's Cooperative, North Western, Country Table Restaurant, 7 p.m.
Lancaster County Sheep and Wool Growers annual meeting, 7:30 p.m., Farm and Home Center.
Making Smart Farm Decisions (3 sessions), York County Extension office, 7 p.m. Also on Feb. 17 and 24.
Making Smart Farm Decisions (3 sessions), Cumberland County Extension Office, 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Also on Feb. 17 and 24.

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GETTING WHAT'S COMING TO YOU

February 1, 1987

Background Scripture:

Galatians 2: 15-21; Ephesians 2:1-10.

Devotional Reading:

Romans 1:16, 17.

Today, more than ever, people are very intent on "getting what's coming to them." In fact, it would seem this has become one of the controlling motivations of our society. Our law courts are full of civil suits by people who believe that someone or something owes them some kind of remuneration or indemnity for injuries or damages real or imagined. For example, one of the victims of a recent air hijacking incident has sued his travel agent on the grounds that the travel agent should have known of the terrorist threat and warned him accordingly. In another legal action, a mother was seeking legal redress from a tobacco company because her son had become addicted to tobacco, contracted lung cancer and died.

I am not suggesting that many suits are not legally justified. I am only concerned that increasingly we are seeking to hold others responsible for our own freewill choices. Furthermore, we ought not to see all of life from the perspective of "what we have coming to us." A portrait artist once said

that, often when he is painting a portrait, people tell him to "be sure to do me justice." What most of them need," he said, "is not justice, but mercy."

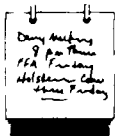
I don't know about you, but that brings me up short. If right now I were to be offered strict and perfect justice for my 56 years of life, could I afford to choose it? It doesn't take me long to answer with an emphatic "No!" To be sure, there have been some injustices perpetrated against me in my life. I could make—as you could—a nice little list of them. (Because I haven't really allowed myself to forget about some of them, they are rather easy to remember.) I can think of people who have taken advantage of me. I have been cheated numerous times and pickpocketed once. I have had people treat me unfairly, some who have lied to me, a few who have tried to cause me trouble. If I was "getting what is coming to me," I would certainly get a substantial indemnity on the basis of those injustices.

If we could stop right there, I—and all of us—would be sitting pretty. But, of course, we can't stop there. For there are also injustices that I have committed. (Of course, these are much easier to understand and partially justify than the ones committed against me!) And if I were to have to be punished or penalized for my sins, I know that I would owe far more than what is owed to me. Clearly, what I want—what I'm banking on—is mercy, not justice. As Paul puts it to the Galatians, "But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners..." (2:17). In the light of God's justice, that's what all of us are found to be.

What all of us better bank on is the grace of God—counting on getting "not what's coming to us," but infinitely more. In Ephesians 2 we are assured of the richness of God's grace: "But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ...that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." (2:4,5,7).

God grant that I—and you—may never get just "what's coming to us"!

Farm Calendar



Saturday, January 31

York County 4-H Beef Banquet, Porter's Firehall, 7 p.m.
Cumberland County Holstein Breeders annual meeting, South Middleton Firehall, Boiling Springs.
Witmer Fire Company turkey supper, noon, Witmer.
Garden State Dairy Goat Association Meeting, Polish-American Hall, Whitehouse Station. Call 201-996-6682.
N.J. Beekeepers Association, Trenton State College. Call Jack Matthenius, 609-864-2285.

Monday, February 2

Pa. Nurserymen and Allied Industries Conference, Penn State University, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Delmarva Dairy Meeting, Hartley Firehall, Hartley.
Montgomery County Extension Annual Meeting, Montgomery 4-H Center, Creamery, 7 p.m. For tickets call Extension office at 215-489-4315.
Hunterdon County Sheep Breeders Association monthly meeting, 8 p.m., Extension Center.

Tuesday, February 3

Swine Producer's Meeting, Valley Bank, Shippensburg.

Cumberland County Extension

Annual Meeting, South Middleton Firehall, Boiling Springs.
Dairy Day, Westminster, Md., 9 a.m.
Ephrata Area Young Farmers officers and banquet committee meeting, Ephrata Jr. High School Conference Room, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 4

Delmarva Corn and Soybean Technology Conference, Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, Salisbury, Md.
Pa. Young Farmer Association Winter Conference, Gettysburg.
Farm Financial Management (Making Smart Decisions Seminar), session 1, Franklin County 4-H Center, Chambersburg, 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Schuylkill County Winter Vegetable Meeting, Dusselink Motor Inn, Pottsville, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Hunterdon County Board of Ag monthly meeting, Extension Center, 8 p.m.

Thursday, February 5

In-depth Dairy Nutrition Series,

